

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANJUL
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, MAY 1, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE SECRETARY'S TRAVELS TO NEW YORK YESTERDAY AND THE OUTCOME OF HIS TALKS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS HE MET WITH?

A. HE MET WITH BENJAMIN MKOPA OF TANZANIA, FOREIGN MINISTER; SERGIO VIERA, SPECIAL ADVISER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY OF MOZAMBIQUE; AND PAULO JORGE, FOREIGN MINISTER ANGOLA. IT WOULD BE SAFE TO ASSUME THAT IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS THE SUBJECT BOTH OF NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA WERE RAISED. THE SECRETARY DECIDED THAT HE WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENCE IN NEW YORK OF SEVERAL KEY AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS TO REVIEW WITH THEM SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT WERE RAISED DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO AFRICA. HE FELT THAT THOSE TALKS YESTERDAY WERE USEFUL.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US ANY IDEA OF WHAT THE STATE OF PLAY IS ON NAMIBIA NOW?

A. OUR PROPOSALS, AS YOU KNOW, HAVE GONE FORWARD. THEY HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS. WE REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT SWAPO WILL ACCEPT THE CONTACT ROUTE PROPOSAL BY WHICH WE STAND AS IT WAS PRESENTED AND WE INTEND TO CON-

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TINUE OUR EFFORTS TO THAT END.

Q. WHAT ANSWER HAVE YOU HAD FROM SWAPO?

A. I THINK THE ONLY RESPONSE WE HAVE IS WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN.

Q. HE DID NOT MEET WITH SAM NUJOMA YESTERDAY?

A. NO. HE DID NOT.

Q. WHAT ACTUALLY PROMPTED THE MEETING MORE SPECIFICALLY?

A. I THINK IT WAS A CHANCE, IN FACT, TO DO JUST WHAT HE SAID. IT WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW WITH THESE PARTICULAR PEOPLE OUR DISCUSSIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. THEY ARE FRONT-LINE MINISTERS AND FRONT-LINE STATES HAVE PLAYED, AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, A VALUABLE ROLE IN HELPING US TO REACH AGREEMENT.

Q. DO YOU KNOW IF THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA, WHICH HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY FRAGMENTED WAS A SUBJECT FOR THESE

DISCUSSIONS IN TERMS OF WHAT IMPACT THAT WOULD HAVE ON AMERICAN ATTEMPTS TO BRING TOGETHER THE OPPOSING SIDES TO A ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE?

A. WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC, AS I SAY, THE QUESTION INVOLVING RHODESIA AS WELL AS NAMIBIA DID ARISE AND THOSE SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED.

Q. NOW THAT THIS COMES UP, YOU MAY RECALL THAT AS OF ABOUT A YEAR AGO, THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS RESEARCHING THE LAW ON THE STATUS OF PRESIDENTIAL REGULATIONS TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE SHOULD CONTINUE TO FUNCTION IN THE UNITED STATES. HAS THE STUDY EVER BEEN COMPLETED?

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A. I AM NOT SURE WHAT THE DISPOSITION OF THAT IS. I THINK THE OFFICE IS STILL FUNCTIONING.

Q. THE LAST THING, I BELIEVE, THAT THE RECORD SHOWS IS THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS COGITATING WHETHER A PRESIDENTIAL, EXECUTIVE ORDER, WAS TO BE ISSUED TO CLOSE THAT OFFICE IN COMPLIANCE WITH U.N. RESOLUTION BANNING THE

OPERATION OF SUCH OFFICES.

A. I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION.

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